

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Expansion Efforts

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What is SNAP?

- SNAP is the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps
- SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities
- SNAP eligibility is determined using household income, housing expenses and other non-financial criteria such as student status, citizenship criteria, etc.

What is SNAP E&T?

- SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) is a component of the overall SNAP program
- SNAP E&T helps SNAP recipients improve their employment prospects and wage potential through participation in job search, training, education, or workfare activities. The goal is to assist SNAP recipients in obtaining a livable wage
- States establish their own SNAP E&T programs within federal guidelines

Who is Eligible for SNAP E&T?

- SNAP recipients who:
 - Are receiving SNAP in the month they participate in a component*;
 - Do not receive TANF cash assistance; and
 - Are able to work upon program completion

**Except for job retention services, which can be provided for up to 90 days post-employment even if the individual loses eligibility for SNAP.*

Federal Requirements for Continued Eligibility for ABAWDs

- Work 20 or more hours per week, or
- Be engaged in qualified Employment and Training activities for at least 20 hours per week, or
- Participate in Workfare or Unpaid Work Experience

Allowable Activities for SNAP E&T

- Job search – cannot comprise more than 49%
- ABE, GED, ESL, High School, Adult Diploma
- Workfare/Work Experience
- Unpaid Internship
- Post-Secondary Education (two years or less)
- Other short-term classroom training (CNA)
- Social Services
- Job retention for up to 90 days following employment

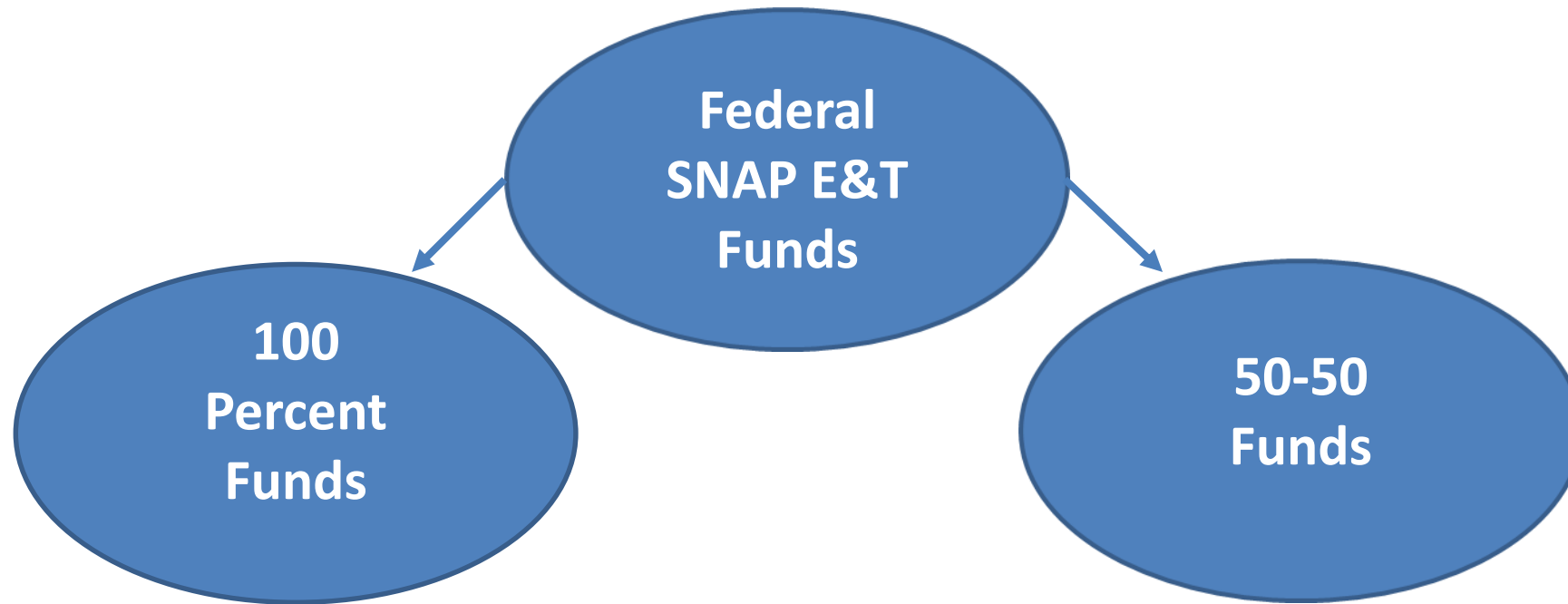
ABAWD Taskforce Policy Considerations

- Screening for “fitness to work”
- Use of geographic waivers
- Use of 15% individual exemptions (banked months)
- Mandatory vs. voluntary participation
- The “pledge” to serve all “at-risk” ABAWDs
- Activities that qualify to meet work requirements
- Support available to ABAWDs

Legislative Update

- Voluntary vs Mandatory
- \$4.4 Million from General Fund

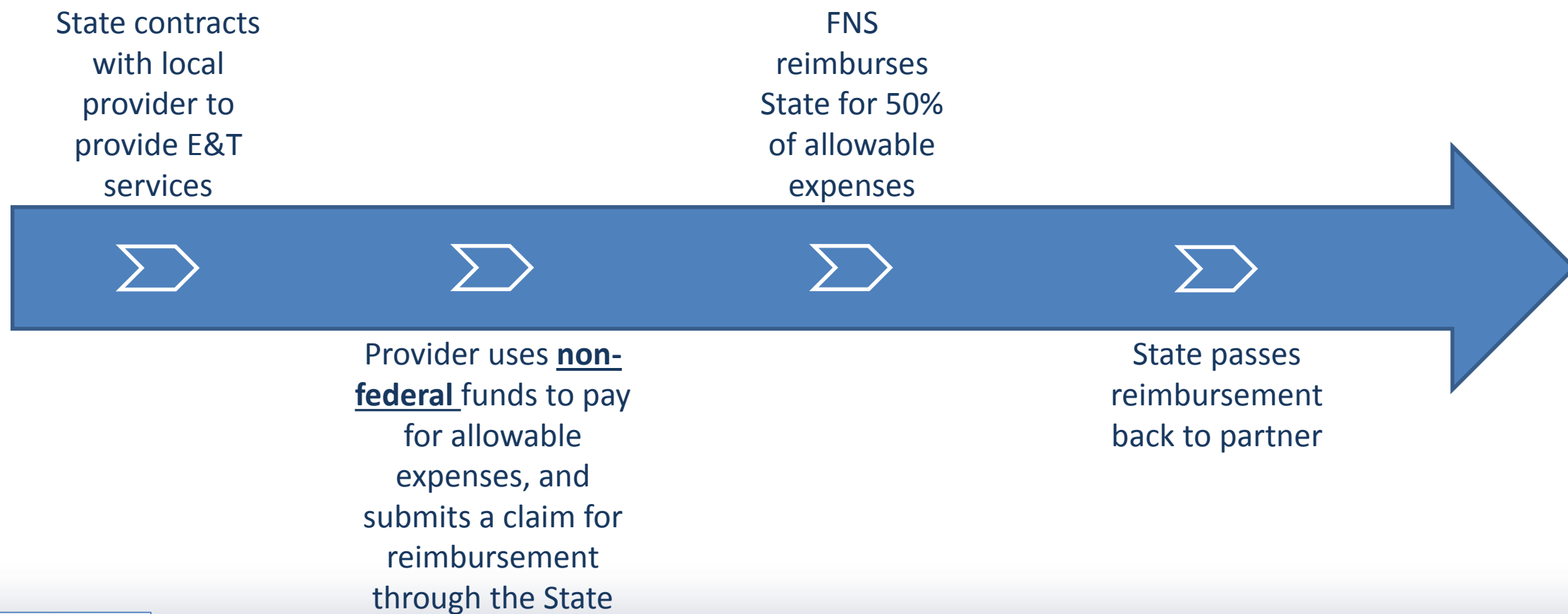
Major SNAP E&T Funding Streams for Minnesota



50-50 Reimbursement Funds

- The real potential of the program
- Sometimes also referred to as third-party “match programs”
- E&T services are provided by third parties, such as community colleges and community based organizations
- Partners pay for services and get reimbursed 50% through Federal funding

Third Party Reimbursement Model



Allowable Participant Reimbursements

Costs that are reasonable, necessary and directly related to participation in an E&T component

- **Examples:**

- Transportation expenses
- Books or training manuals
- Uniforms
- Personal safety items required for participation
- Dependent care costs

Unallowable Participant Reimbursement

Costs that are *not* reasonable, necessary or within the scope of the purpose of E&T

- **Examples:**

- Purchase of an Automobile
- Auto Insurance
- Auto Repairs
- Most Medical Services
- Mental Health Treatment
- Drug/Alcohol Counseling or Therapy

SNAP E&T Expansion Workgroup

Vision

Minnesota envisions a SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program where Minnesotans with low incomes have clear pathways in developing marketable and in-demand skills leading to career advancement and self-sufficiency.

Mission

Through engaging partnerships, our mission is helping recipients fully use their SNAP benefits, gain the skills needed to obtain gainful employment, and successfully transition off SNAP.



SNAP E&T Expansion Workgroup Priorities

- Build a service model that is responsive to participant needs, motivation, culture and abilities
- Develop a continuum of evidence-based employment and training services through our partnerships
- Work inclusively with our diverse partners and employers and share progress publicly
- Work aggressively, but thoughtfully, as we grow employment and training to serve SNAP recipients

Goals and Measures

- Increase access to suitable employment and training opportunities
- Increase resources available for suitable employment and training services
- Improve economic stability and independence of SNAP recipients in employment and trainings

SNAP E&T Expansion Workgroup – To Date

- Minnesota was selected to be one of 10 states to receive technical assistance
- Business Plan and Work Plan
- Expanding reimbursement for services to all SNAP recipients in the current Heading Home and Navigator pilots
- Post-Secondary Initiative

SNAP E&T Expansion Workgroup – To Date

- Hennepin and Ramsey Counties – SOI
- DHS and DEED are discussing restructure of interagency agreement

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